

WORKSHOP NOTES

City of San Diego Park and Recreation Board
Balboa Park Committee
October 16, 2008

ATTENDANCE:

Members Present

Laurie Burgett
Jerelyn Dilno
Vicki Granowitz
David Kinney
Michael Singleton
Donald Steele

Members Absent

Jennifer Ayala
Mick Hager
Andrew Kahng
Mike McDowell

Staff Present

Susan Lowery-Mendoza

CALL TO ORDER-

The meeting was called to order at 5:36 pm

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT:

- Pam Crooks has been hired to write the report on the recommendations from the Balboa Park Committee
- Ms. Crooks will not be attending any of these meetings
- This process may conclude in December, but could go into January
- Does the Committee want to meet on Dec 18? *Yes*
- A rough draft of the report will be needed by November

DISCLOSURES

- Donald Steele and David Kinney have worked with Pam Crooks in the past.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Organized Presentation David Lang Executive Director Balboa Park Cultural Partnership, Bob Ames – Trustee of Timpkin Museum, Kathy Hattox, Trustee of the Old Globe

- For the first time a Task Force made up of Trustees and Staff from various cultural institutions was assembled to make recommendations on an issue facing Balboa Park.
- They worked on answering the three from the *Soul of San Diego* and wanted to share their recommendations and passed out a report to the committee and public.
- BPC members thanked the presenters for their well thought out comments and hoped they would continue to let the BPC know their thoughts and concerns.
- BPC members pointed out that their answers and recommendations seem to be consistent with what the BPC's direction on the issue.

WORKSHOP ITEMS:

- I. **Study Question 1-** Can the City of San Diego provide the necessary financial support for Balboa Park in the future?
Draft answer by BPC subcommittee presented by Vicki Granowitz was reviewed with committee and public comment

SUGGESTIONS/COMMENTS:

- Define costs a little better
- Expand on categories within “improvement”
- Mike Singleton does not agree with item II. #7 regarding TOT
- Also does not agree with item II #4 regarding BP not being run like a business
- There is still a certain level of city responsibility. Part of property taxation goes to Park and Rec. The county residents’ tax does not come to the park.

(Mike Singleton will write all his suggestions and send them to the Chair)

Public Speaker #1 – Judy Swink

Regarding answer to Q#1, I think it is a mistake to fix numbers. We should ask the City for it all upfront. The more money you ask for, maybe the more you’ll get.

II. Study Question 2 – If it can, should it?

Draft answer by BPC subcommittee and presented by David Kinney was reviewed with committee and public comment

SUGGESTIONS/COMMENTS:

- On page three – Regarding Federal funds, we may be getting something already. This should say that “if we do get Federal monies, it is very minor”.

Public Speaker– Judy Swink

Regarding friends of canyon groups and is there one for Florida Canyon? Is Florida Canyon considered part of Balboa Park or not?

Chair answers that Florida Canyon is part of Balboa Park and there is not a Friends Group.

III. Study Question 3 – And If the City decides on a different type of governance than what is in place now, what are the options?

Draft answer by BPC subcommittee presented by Laurie Burgett was reviewed with committee and public comment

Suggestions/Comments:

Don Steele – Great Job

Public Speaker #3 – Phil a neighbor who lives on 6th Avenue

Regarding Public Private Partnership, I think it is great if they share ideas but have different responsibilities. What do you mean public/private partnerships? Bureaucracy is not good for private groups that want to run projects. You don’t want to take responsibility from the city, but if you mix the two, there is no creativity from the private.

Public Speaker– Judy Swink

Removing the park from the District, ideally, I think that’s the way it should be. On page 8 – such as property values that benefits Balboa Park. On page 9- It should propose for more from the City coming in. It should be back to the levels we were getting, before all the cut backs.

Public Speaker #4 – Ken Tranbarger

The Friends of Balboa Park commissioned a report to be rolled out soon on the “Value of parks to the city” by Peter Harnik and there is facts regarding the economic generator in there.

Chair told speaker that the committee already has the report and there is not information on specific issues about Balboa Park as an economic generator in there.

Ken said he will review the document and will send a note today or tomorrow with the information.

Chair clarified that specifics of creating the “Public/Private/Partnership” concept would need to be figured out in the second phase, but recommendations are definitely going to be given.

After reviewing the three questions BPC Members agreed that:

Question #1 answer is “no, the city can’t handle it on its own”

Question #2 was agreed upon as written by the subcommittee, “no, the City shouldn’t do it all but it is not feasible to expect to bring other entities in at this time. But that there should be out reach to include obvious partners in the future.”

Question #3 there was also agreement that a public/private partnership seems to be the most appropriate for Balboa Park. And that maybe creating a program to manage volunteerism may be the first priority of it.

Public Speaker– Judy Swink

In building volunteerism you build advocacy.

Chair said that the next step is to give some thought of what should be Phase II tasks. The committee must put some thought into what a 501c3 would/should look like. This can be done looking at a bigger picture of it and not focusing on the small details at this time.

Public Speaker– Judy Swink

Land Use policies need to remain with the Citizens.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm

Notes submitted by Vanessa Nieves